

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-34. (canceled)

35. (currently amended) A method of ~~therapeutic or prophylactic~~ treatment of a bacterial infection characterized by biofilm formation which comprises administering to a human or non-human animal in need thereof one or more bacteriophage preparations comprising one or more bacteriophages, said one or more bacteriophages targeting bacteria of said infection and said method comprising administration of said one or more bacteriophages sequentially with one or more antibiotics, with the proviso that said method excludes administration of a polysaccharide lyase by means of said one or more bacteriophage preparations, or separately therefrom.

36. (previously presented): The method of claim 35, wherein more than one bacteriophage is employed in the form of a single combined bacteriophage preparation.

37. (previously presented): The method of claim 36, wherein said combined bacteriophage preparation comprises a plurality of bacteriophages capable of infecting the same bacterial species, each member of said plurality of bacteriophages having a different strain specificity.

38. (previously presented): The method of claim 35, wherein one or more antibiotics are administered after said one or more bacteriophages.

39. (previously presented): The method of claim 35, wherein said bacterial infection comprises or consists of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*.

40. (previously presented): The method of claim 39, wherein said infection is an infection selected from infection of a skin burn or other skin wound, a lung infection, an ocular infection, an ear infection, a urinary infection or infection associated with a medical device or implant.

41. (previously presented): The method of claim 40, wherein said infection is a canine ear infection.

42. (previously presented): The method of claim 35, wherein said administration is for prophylactic treatment.

43. (previously presented): The method of claim 42, wherein said one or more bacteriophage preparations are administered as a contact lens solution or additive.

44. (previously presented): The method of claim 39, wherein one or more bacteriophages are employed selected from NCIMB 41174, NCIMB 41175, NCIMB 41176, NCIMB 41177, NCIMB 41178, NCIMB 41179, NCIMB 41180 and NCIMB 41181 (deposited at the National Collection of Industrial and Marine Bacteria, Aberdeen, United Kingdom) and variants thereof which retain the ability to target *P. aeruginosa*.

45. (previously presented): The method of claim 44, wherein a panel of bacteriophages is employed, each member of said panel having a different strain specificity and being selected from NCIMB 41174, NCIMB 41175, NCIMB 41176, NCIMB 41177, NCIMB 41178 and NCIMB 41179, NCIMB 41180 and NCIMB 41181 and variants thereof which retain the ability to target *P. aeruginosa*.

46. (previously presented): The method of claim 45, wherein a panel of bacteriophages is employed consisting of NCIMB 41174, NCIMB 41175, NCIMB 41176, NCIMB 41177, NCIMB 41178, NCIMB 41179 or a panel which differs from said panel by substitution of any of said bacteriophages by a variant thereof which exhibits desired target strain specificity.

47. (currently amended): The method of claim 46, wherein said panel of bacteriophages is employed in the form of a single combined bacteriophage preparation for use in treating a canine ear infection.

48. (canceled)

49. (withdrawn): A bacteriophage selected from the bacteriophage strains NCIMB 41174, NCIMB 41175, NCIMB 41176, NCIMB 41177, NCIMB 41178, NCIMB 41179, NCIMB 41180 and NCIMB 41181 deposited at the National Collection of Industrial and Marine Bacteria, Aberdeen, United Kingdom, and variants thereof which retain the ability to target *P. aeruginosa*, preferably having at least 95% nucleotide sequence identity across the whole genome compared to the genome of one of said deposited strains.

50. (withdrawn): A pharmaceutical composition comprising one or more bacteriophages of claim 49, together with a pharmaceutical carrier or diluent.

51. (withdrawn): A combined product for simultaneous, separate or sequential administration of a panel of bacteriophages to treat a bacterial infection comprising or consisting of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, each member of said panel having a different strain specificity and wherein said panel consists of two or more bacteriophages selected from NCIMB 41174, NCIMB 41175, NCIMB 41176, NCIMB 41177, NCIMB 41178, NCIMB 41179, NCIMB 41180, NCIMB 41181 and variants thereof which retain the ability to target *P. aeruginosa*.

52. (withdrawn – currently amended): The combined product of claim 51, wherein said panel of bacteriophages consists of the bacteriophages NCIMB 41174, NCIMB 41175, NCIMB 41176, NCIMB 41177, NCIMB 41178, NCIMB 41179 or a panel which differs from said panel by substitution of any of said bacteriophages with a variant thereof which exhibits desired target strain specificity.

53. (withdrawn): The combined product of claim 51, which comprises a single pharmaceutical composition comprising said panel of bacteriophages together with a pharmaceutical carrier or diluent.

54. (canceled)

55. (withdrawn): The combined product of claim 51, which further comprises one or more antibiotics for sequential administration to said one or more bacteriophages.

56. (withdrawn): The composition of claim 50, which further comprises an alginase.

57. (withdrawn): The combined product of claim 51, which further comprises an alginase for simultaneous, separate or sequential administration to said one or more bacteriophages.

58. (withdrawn): A non-therapeutic method of removing, reducing or preventing bacterial contamination characterized by biofilm formation, said method comprising applying to the site or prospective site of said contamination one or more bacteriophages capable of targeting bacteria of said contamination and sequentially thereto one or more antibiotics or antiseptics

59. (withdrawn): The method of claim 58, wherein one or more bacteriophages are employed as defined in claim 44 and said bacterial contamination comprises or consists of *P. aeruginosa*.

60. (canceled)

61. (withdrawn): A method of detecting the presence of *P. aeruginosa* in an *in vitro* sample, which comprises contacting said sample with one or more bacteriophages as defined in claim 44, and determining whether said bacteriophage(s) are capable of killing bacteria in said sample.

62. (withdrawn): A method of identifying a bacterial strain selective for one of the bacteriophages NCIMB 41174, NCIMB 41175, NCIMB 41176, NCIMB 41177, NCIMB 41178, NCIMB 41179, NCIMB 41180 and NCIMB 41181, the method comprising the steps of measuring plaque formation by said bacteriophage in a number of bacterial strains and selecting a strain which allows at least 1000 times more plaque formation by said bacteriophage than by any of said other bacteriophages.

63-64. (canceled)

65. (previously presented): The method of claim 44, wherein any variant of said deposited bacteriophage strains employed has at least 95% nucleotide sequence identity across its whole genome compared to the genome of the relevant deposited strain.

66. (previously presented): The method of claim 45, wherein any variant of said deposited bacteriophage strains employed has at least 95% nucleotide sequence identity across its whole genome compared to the genome of the relevant deposited strain.

67. (previously presented): The method of claim 46, wherein any variant of said deposited bacteriophage strains employed has at least 95% nucleotide sequence identity across its whole genome compared to the genome of the relevant deposited strain.

68. (withdrawn): The combined product of claim 51, wherein any employed variant of a deposited bacteriophage strains has at least 95% nucleotide sequence identity across its whole genome compared to the genome of the relevant deposited strain.

69. (withdrawn): The combined product of claim 52, wherein any employed variant of a deposited bacteriophage strains has at least 95% nucleotide sequence identity across its whole genome compared to the genome of the relevant deposited strain.

70. (previously presented): A method of therapeutic or prophylactic treatment of a bacterial infection comprising or consisting of *P. aeruginosa* which comprises administering to a human or non-human animal a composition of claim 50.

71. (withdrawn): A method of therapeutic or prophylactic treatment of a bacterial infection comprising or consisting of *P. aeruginosa* which comprises administering to a human or non-human animal a combined product of claim 51.

72. (previously presented): The method of claim 70 wherein said infection is an infection selected from infection of a skin burn or other skin wound, a lung infection, an ocular infection, an ear infection, a urinary infection or infection associated with a medical implant.

73. (withdrawn): The method of claim 71 wherein said infection is an infection selected from infection of a skin burn or other skin wound, a lung infection, an ocular infection, an ear infection, a urinary infection or infection associated with a medical implant.

74. (currently amended): ~~[[the]]~~ The method of claim 72 wherein said infection is a canine ear infection.

75. (withdrawn – currently amended): ~~[[the]]~~ The method of claim 73 wherein said infection is a canine ear infection.